

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) An electric appliance, comprising:

a plurality of operating elements, each operating element which can be operated actuatable by a user in an actuatable state and not actuatable by the user in a non-actuatable state, each operating element having an associated each operating element including a respective status display device; and, ~~and comprising~~

a control logic unit ~~which is coupled to the operating elements, the control logic unit configured to~~

~~detect a user input, user operations and is set up to adjust~~

~~change an operating state of the electrical appliance according to the user input, and operations, the control logic unit is furthermore set up to displace~~

~~activate the status display device of each operating element that is in an actuatable state from which it is able to process a user operation into a first state according to an adjusted operating state, and to displace deactivate the status display device of each operating element that is in a non-actuatable state from which it is not able to process a user operation into a second state in response to a change in the electrical appliance from a first operating state to a second operating state.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The electric appliance according to claim 14, wherein the each status display device is a light source ~~for illuminating the allocated operating element in an illuminated state.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The electric appliance according to claim ~~14, 15~~, wherein ~~the electric appliance includes~~ further comprising a housing, the housing including having a surface, wherein and the operating elements are arranged on the surface of the housing.

17. (Currently Amended) The electric appliance according to claim ~~15~~ 14, wherein ~~the illuminated state is the first state of each~~ a status display device is in an illuminated state when a respective operating element is in the actuatable state and the status display device is in a non-illuminated state when the respective operating element is in the non-actuatable state.

18. (Currently Amended) The electric appliance according to claim 17, further comprising a housing including a surface on which the operating elements are arranged, wherein a non-illuminated operating element a status display device in a non-illuminated state has a color similar to a color of the surface. ~~has a color similar to the color of the surface of the surrounding housing.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The electric appliance according to claim ~~15~~ 17, wherein the control logic unit is ~~furthermore set up~~ further configured to switch ~~over each~~ illuminated status displays display device that is in the illuminated state into a the non-illuminated state with after a pre-determined delay after detecting the last actuation of an operating element time interval elapses following detection of the user input.

20. (Currently Amended) The electric appliance according to claim 19, wherein the control logic unit is ~~set up~~ further configured to ~~make the switchover undoable~~ maintain in the non-illuminated state the status display devices for the operating elements that are in the non-actuatable state, if the actuation of an arbitrary the user attempts to actuate an operating element in the non-actuatable state is detected.

21. (Currently Amended) The electric appliance according to claim 14, wherein the operating elements comprise ~~capacitative~~ capacitive proximity sensors.
22. (Currently Amended) The electric appliance according to claim 20, ~~wherein the electric appliance includes~~ further comprising a housing, the housing including having an interior chamber ~~which can be~~ that is closed by a door, wherein the control logic unit ~~being set up to~~ is further configured to make the switchover undoable maintain in the non-illuminated state the status display devices of the operating elements that are in the non-actuatable state, if the opening of a door of the housing of the electric appliance is detected the door is opened.
23. (Currently Amended) The electric appliance according to claim 14, ~~wherein~~ further comprising an acoustic signal transmitter ~~which~~ that delivers an audible signal when an actuation of an operating element has been detected.
24. (Previously Presented) The electric appliance according to claim 14, wherein the operating elements are combined with an alphanumeric display in an assembly.
25. (Currently Amended) The electric appliance according to claim 14, wherein the electric appliance ~~device~~ includes a refrigerating appliance.
26. (Currently Amended) A refrigerator comprising:
a housing having an interior chamber; [[,]]
a door coupled to the housing for opening and closing the interior chamber; [[,
and]]
a control panel, the control panel including a display window for displaying information and a plurality of buttons for receiving user input from a user ~~and a display window for displaying information;~~

each button including a respective light source and a respective proximity sensor,
the proximity sensor configured to detect ~~detecting~~ contact of the button by the user; ~~and~~
~~a light source,~~

~~each the button being~~ respective light source being in an illuminated state when
~~the light source is activated~~ button is actuatable by the user and in a non-illuminated state
when ~~the light source is deactivated~~ button is not actuatable by the user; and

a control logic unit electrically connected to the control panel, the control logic
unit configured to ~~and controlling~~

control operation of the refrigerator, ~~the control logic unit receiving~~
receive input signals from ~~actuation of the buttons, and sending~~
send output signals to control the display window and light sources,
~~the control logic unit adjusting~~ adjust operation an operating state of the
refrigerator in response to a user input, and ~~on the control panel, the control logic~~
~~unit activating~~

activate the light source of at least ~~one of the buttons~~ a first button into the
illuminated state and ~~deactivating~~ deactivate the light source of ~~another of the~~
~~buttons~~ at least a second button into the non-illuminated state in response to
~~receiving input signals from one of the buttons~~ the user input.

27. (Currently Amended) The refrigerator according to claim 26, wherein the housing
includes:

a freezer compartment including the first button, wherein the first button is
for controlling the freezer compartment; and

a refrigerating compartment, ~~the buttons including a first button for~~
~~selecting operating features of the freezer compartment and including the [[a]]~~
~~second button, wherein the second button is for selecting operating features of~~
controlling the refrigerating compartment.

28. (Currently Amended) The refrigerator according to claim 26, wherein the buttons include a select button for selecting an operating feature, an increment button for increasing a the selected operating feature, ~~and of the refrigerator~~ and a decrement button for decreasing a the selected operating feature ~~of the refrigerator~~.

29. (Currently Amended) The refrigerator according to claim 26, wherein the ~~window display~~ display window is configured to display ~~displays~~ a list of ~~menu items~~ operating features and allow ~~permitting~~ the user to scroll through the list of operating features ~~menu items and the buttons include a select button for selecting the desired menu item~~.

30. (Currently Amended) The refrigerator according to claim 26, wherein the display window ~~display~~ includes ~~[[a]]~~ an LCD display and a luminescent screen.

31. (Currently Amended) The refrigerator according to claim 26, further comprising a door switch, the door switch coupled to the control logic unit and configured to sense ~~sensing if the door is open and connected to the control logic unit~~.

32. (New) An electric appliance, comprising:
a plurality of operating elements in a user interface;
an actuability indicator for each of the plurality of operating elements; and
a controller that controls each of the actuability indicators such that the actuability indicators indicate the actuability of a corresponding operating element.

33. (New) The electric appliance of claim 32, wherein the actuability indicators comprise a light source.